

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

ORDER NO. R1-2003-0047  
WDID NO. 1A84073OSIS

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

CITY OF YREKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF)

Siskiyou County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. The City of Yreka (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates facilities for treatment and disposal of municipal wastewater from the community of Yreka.
2. In 2002, upgrades were completed to the City of Yreka's waste treatment and disposal facilities (WWTF). These facilities consist of screening, activated sludge secondary treatment, clarification, aerobic sludge digestion, and disinfection by chlorination. The WWTF is located in the SW ¼ of Section 14, T45N, R7W, MDB&M as shown on Attachments A, B, and C incorporated herein and made part of this Order. Treated wastewater is pumped to a 31-acre disposal field located approximately 800 feet north of the WWTF. Effluent is discharged subsurface using a drip disposal system.
3. Four percolation ponds located adjacent to the treatment works, were used as the primary pre-upgrade effluent disposal facilities. A marsh/wildlife habitat area located north of the percolation ponds was used as an alternative disposal site. The percolation ponds will remain integrated into the system for use during high inflow periods. Use of the alternate disposal area will be discontinued. The treatment works, subsurface disposal field, and percolation ponds are located adjacent to Yreka Creek.
4. Post-upgrade design specifications indicate a dry weather (June through October) flow treatment capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day (mgd). The subsurface disposal field was designed to accommodate 1.3 mgd. The percolation ponds provide additional disposal capacity. Influent wastewater flows in the year 2002 averaged 0.81 mgd with a one-day highest flow of 3.78 mgd and a highest one-hour peak of 4.9 mgd. Peak influent volumes will be reduced during gradual elimination of infiltration/inflow in the collection system.
5. Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-69, adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 26, 1996, are currently in effect for the WWTF.

6. Cease and Desist Order No. 98-103, adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 24, 1998, was issued to the City of Yreka. The Order required elimination of discharges to Yreka Creek that were in violation of the Basin Plan. It also required implementation of a long-term biosolids disposal plan. The Discharger complied with the Order, and the Order was rescinded on May 15, 2003.
8. Biosolids (processed sludge) from the WWTF are land applied at acceptable agronomic rates on 179 acres of agricultural lands owned by E. C. Fiock and Sons. On April 27, 2000, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. R1-2000-32, waste discharge requirements for the City of Yreka Biosolids Disposal Facility.
9. Proximity of effluent disposal facilities to Yreka Creek will continue to be a concern regarding the potential for biostimulant (nutrients) contribution to the creek. Monitoring will be conducted to characterize treated effluent. Additional information is necessary to properly evaluate the situation. Monitoring results from effluent, ground and surface water, for relevant constituents and parameters will be used to evaluate whether the WWTF is a biostimulant source to Yreka Creek. Also these results will be used to determine whether additional measures need to be implemented at the WWTF for protection of the beneficial uses of water.
10. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region includes water quality objectives, implementation plans for point source and nonpoint source discharge prohibitions and statewide plans and policies. The Basin Plan prohibits discharges to the Klamath River and its tributaries except as provided in the Action Plan for Storm Water Discharges.
11. Beneficial uses for Yreka Creek, the Shasta River, and the Klamath River include:
  - a. municipal water supply
  - b. agricultural water supply
  - c. industrial water supply
  - d. groundwater recharge
  - e. freshwater replenishment
  - f. contact water recreation
  - g. noncontact water recreation
  - h. warm freshwater habitat
  - i. cold freshwater habitat
  - j. wildlife habitat
  - k. migration of aquatic organisms
  - l. spawning, reproduction, and/or early development
  - m. commercial and sport fishing
  - n. aquaculture
12. Existing and potential beneficial uses of areal ground water include:
  - a. municipal water supply
  - b. agricultural water supply
  - c. industrial water supply

13. The permitted discharge is consistent with State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California. The impact on existing water quality will be insignificant
14. The action to renew WDRs is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15301, as an activity involving the permitting of an existing facility that involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.
15. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.
16. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 96-69 is rescinded and the Discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

**A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS**

1. Discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by this Order is prohibited.
2. Discharge of waste from the wastewater treatment facility to Yreka Creek is prohibited.
3. Discharge of untreated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment or disposal facilities is prohibited.
4. Creation of a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC), is prohibited.
5. Discharge of sludge is prohibited except as authorized under Section **D. SOLIDS DISPOSAL**.

**B. DISCHARGE SPECIFICATIONS**

1. The mean daily dry weather flow of waste shall not exceed 1.3 mgd averaged over a period of thirty consecutive days.
2. Representative samples of effluent taken following disinfection in the chlorine contact chamber and prior to reaching the pump house transfer station shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>7-Day Average</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u> <sup>2</sup>
BOD (20°C, 5-day)	mg/l	30	45	60
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/l	30	45	60
Settleable Solids	ml/l	0.1	-----	0.2
Total Coliform	MPN/100 ml	23 <sup>3</sup>	-----	230
Hydrogen Ion	pH	Not less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5		

3. The discharge of effluent to the subsurface disposal field shall be kept underground at all times.

### C. GROUNDWATER LIMITATIONS

1. Storage and disposal of the treated wastewater shall not cause or contribute to a statistically significant increase in the level of nutrients (i.e. nitrates, phosphorous, ammonia) compared to background groundwater quality, as measured in monitoring well samples from the subsurface disposal site.
2. Storage and disposal of the treated wastewater shall not cause or contribute to levels of any chemical constituent in groundwater that exceeds the levels specified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 15, Article 4, Section 64431.
3. Storage and disposal of the treated wastewater shall not cause or contribute to levels of radionuclides in groundwater in excess of the limits specified in the CCR, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 15, Article 5, Section 64443.
4. Storage and disposal of the treated wastewater shall not cause or contribute to alterations of groundwaters that result in taste- or odor-producing substances in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

### D. SOLIDS DISPOSAL

1. Collected screenings, biosolids, and other solids, removed from liquid wastes during primary treatment, shall be disposed at a legal point of disposal, and in accordance with the State Water Board promulgated provisions of CCR, Title 27, Division 2.
2. Management, transport and disposal of biosolids, generated during secondary treatment, shall be conducted in accordance with Order R1-2000-32, Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Yreka and E.C. Flock and Sons Biosolids Disposal Facility.

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<sup>1</sup> The arithmetic mean of all samples collected in a period of 30 consecutive days.

<sup>2</sup> The maximum sample of all samples collected in a calendar day.

<sup>3</sup> Median.

## **E. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Availability**

A copy of this Order shall be maintained at the discharge facility and be available at all times to operating personnel.

### **2. Severability**

Provisions of these waste discharge requirements are severable. If any provision of these requirements is found invalid, the remainder of these requirements shall not be affected.

### **3. Operation and Maintenance**

The Discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility or control system installed by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the waste discharge requirements.

### **4. Operation Manual**

A copy of the operations and maintenance manual for the facility's upgrade components, including a maintenance schedule, shall be prepared and submitted to the Regional Water Board and a copy shall be kept at the facility and available to operation personnel at all times. The facility shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the prepared manual.

### **5. Auxiliary Electrical Power**

The facility shall be equipped with an auxiliary power system to operate all necessary treatment functions during a loss of electrical power.

### **6. Sewer Overflow Prevention Plan**

The Discharger shall develop and submit to the Regional Water Board a Sewer Overflow Prevention Plan (SOPP) for the wastewater collection system no later than 90 days from adoption of this Order. The Discharger shall fully implement the SOPP to reduce the possibility of a sewer overflow event. The SOPP shall be amended whenever there is a change (e.g. in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the wastewater collection system) that materially affects the potential for sewer overflows. The Discharger shall review and amend the SOPP as appropriate after each sewer overflow. The Discharger shall submit the SOPP and any amendments thereto to the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board (Executive Officer) upon request of the Executive Officer. The Discharger shall ensure that the up-to-date SOPP is readily available to sewerage system personnel at all times and that sewerage system personnel are familiar with it.

7. Sewer Overflow Response Plan

The Discharger shall develop and submit to the Regional Water Board a Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SORP) for the WWTF and the area tributary to the WWTF no later than 90 days from adoption of this Order. The Discharger shall fully implement the SORP to ensure ongoing protection from spills and other unpermitted releases from the facility. The SORP shall establish procedures for responding to sewer overflows from the WWTF and the area tributary to the WWTF so as to (a) minimize the sewer overflow volume which enters surface waters, and (b) minimize the adverse effects of sewer overflows on water quality and beneficial uses. The Discharger shall maintain the SORP in an up-to-date condition and shall amend the SORP as necessary to accomplish these objectives. The Discharger shall review and amend the SORP as appropriate after each sewer overflow from the WWTF and the area tributary to the WWTF. The Discharger shall submit the SORP and any amendments thereto to the Executive Officer upon request of the Executive Officer. The Discharger shall ensure that the up-to-date SORP is readily available to sewerage system personnel at all times and that sewerage system personnel are familiar with it.

8. Change in Discharge

The Permittee shall file a Report of Waste Discharge with the Regional Water Board at least 120 days prior to making any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

9. Vested Rights

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the Discharger from liability under federal, state, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Discharger to continue the waste discharge.

10. Monitoring

The Discharger shall comply with the Contingency Planning and Notification Requirements Order No. 74-151 and the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2003-0047 and any modifications to these documents as specified by the Executive Officer. Such documents are attached to this Order and incorporated herein. Chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services (DHS). If all other analyses are conducted at a certified off-site laboratory, analyses for pH, dissolved oxygen, and settleable matter performed by a noncertified onsite laboratory will be accepted provided a quality assurance/quality control program is instituted by the laboratory, and a manual containing the steps followed in this program is kept in the laboratory and made available for inspection by staff of the Regional Water Board. The quality assurance/quality control program shall conform to DHS guidelines.

11. Signatory Requirements

- a. All Report of Waste Discharge applications submitted to the Regional Water Board shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official, or a responsible corporate officer.
- b. Reports required by this Order, other information requested by the Regional Water Board, and Permit applications submitted for Group II storm water discharges under 40 CFR 122.26(b)(3) may be signed by a duly authorized representative provided:
  - i. the authorization is made in writing by a person described in paragraph (a) of this provision;
  - ii. the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; and
  - iii. the written authorization is submitted to the Regional Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications signed by the authorized representative.
- c. Any person signing a document under paragraph (a) or (b) of this provision shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

12. Inspections

The Discharger shall permit authorized staff of the Regional Water Board:

- a. to enter premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
- b. access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
- c. to inspect monitoring equipment or records; and
- d. to sample any discharge.

13. Noncompliance

In the event the Discharger is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:

- a. breakdown of waste treatment equipment;
- b. accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- c. other causes such as acts of nature;

the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer by telephone as soon as it or its agents have knowledge of the incident and confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written notification shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and shall indicate the steps taken to correct the problem and the dates thereof, and the steps being taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

14. Revision of Requirements

The Regional Water Board will review this Order periodically and may revise requirements when necessary.

15. Operator Certification

Supervisors and operators of municipal wastewater treatment plants shall possess a certificate of appropriate grade in accordance with CCR, Title 23, Section 3680. The State Water Board may accept experience in lieu of qualification training. In lieu of a properly certified wastewater treatment plant operator, the State Water Board may approve use of a water treatment plant operator of appropriate grade certified by DHS where water reclamation is involved.

16. Adequate Capacity

Whenever a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant will reach capacity within four years, the Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board. A copy of such notification shall be sent to appropriate local elected officials, local permitting agencies, and the press. The Discharger shall demonstrate that adequate steps are being taken to address the capacity problem. The Discharger shall submit a technical



report to the Regional Water Board showing how flow volumes will be prevented from exceeding capacity, or how capacity will be increased, within 120 days after providing notification to the Regional Water Board, or within 120 days after receipt of Regional Water Board notification, that the Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW) will reach capacity within four years. The time for filing the required technical report may be extended by the Regional Water Board. An extension of 30 days may be granted by the Executive Officer, and longer extensions may be granted by the Regional Water Board itself.

#### Certification

I, Susan A. Warner, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on May 15, 2003.

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Susan A. Warner  
Executive Officer